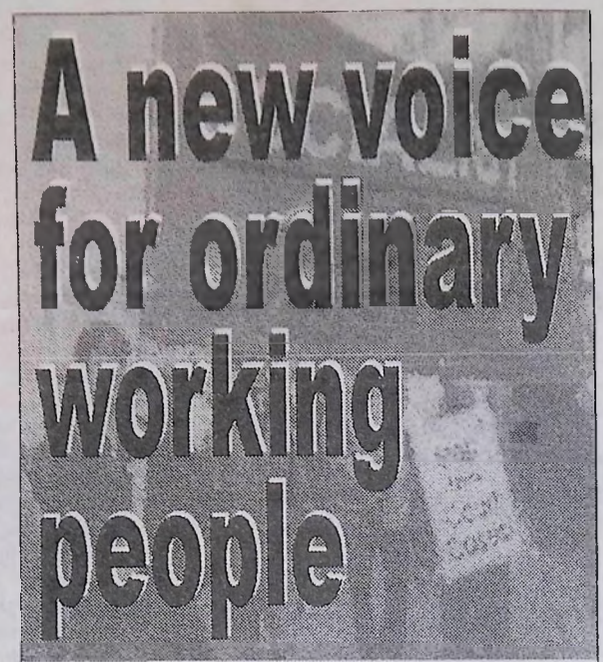
* ***Do you*** think there is a need for a political party that takes an uncompromising stance, in word and in deed, in the interests of ordinary working class people?
* ***Do you*** think there needs to be an organised struggle against mass unemployment and poverty, against low pay and high PAYE taxes on working class people while wealthy tax dodgers owe £2 billion?
* ***Do you*** think attacks on welfare and workers' rights should be resisted?
* ***Do you*** think it is a scandal that we have a two tier health service, where those who can afford it get luxury treatment, and those who can't join a 30,000 long queue for hospital care?
* ***Do you*** believe in the idea of solidarity between ordinary working class people? Are you opposed to all forms of discrimination, whether it be on the basis of colour, creed or gender?
* ***Would you*** support the idea of working class unity and common struggle against common misery as the way forward in Northern Ireland, as opposed to sectarian bigotry?
* ***If so***, you already support the main aims of the Socialist Party. We would like you to join us. The Socialist Party aims to become a major campaigning party of ordinary working class people. You can play a full part in helping to provide working class people with a real alternative to the rotten system in which we live.



The Socialist Party will work with all other genuine forces on the left, and with community, trade union and other campaign groups, to achieve the maximum unity in fighting for the interests of working class people.
Socialist Party representatives in the Dáil will only receive the average wage of a worker. The balance will be used to build the movement to change society.
We also advocate that in the unions, leaders and officials should only receive the same wage as those they represent to keep them in touch with the realities of life for their members.

Join the Socialist Party

Name .....
Address .....
.....
.....
.....Phone .....

SOCIALIST Party

Please fill out and return to the Socialist Party at 141 Thomas Street, Dublin 8 / Phone (01) 6772686 / 6772595

With his stunning victory in Dublin West, Joe Higgins has become the first Socialist Party TD in the Dáil. Not only is Joe Higgins the first Socialist Party TD, he is, in effect, the only genuine socialist in the present Dáil.

Unlike Labour and Democratic Left, Joe Higgins will consistently and determinedly oppose the bosses' parties. Joe Higgins will not be for sale, he will not be in the pockets of big business but will be a champion for people power in Dáil Eireann.

The Socialist Party has made a brilliant breakthrough in the recent general election. Not only did our Party, which was launched last September, win a seat in Dublin West, but in the five constituencies we contested in Dublin, we have laid the basis for future electoral successes.

A real step forward has been taken in building a new and genuinely socialist left. The Socialist Party represents a new political movement of ordinary working class people which is going to change the political life of this country.

In this election working class people have rightly repaid Labour and Democratic Left for their betrayals over the last few years. Neither of these parties can any longer be regarded as parties of the left. They are part of the cosy club of bosses' politicians. That is why the Socialist Party has set itself the task to replace these parties with a new party to represent ordinary working class people, made up of, and led by ordinary working class people.

Through the anti water charges campaign which was the biggest movement of people power, and a real campaign based on mass involvement in the communities, the Socialist Party showed its ability to build a force which can take on the corrupt politicians and beat them by forcing them to abolish water charges.

We now have, through Joe Higgins, a platform for socialist ideas which we are determined to use to build a mass movement for real socialist change in Ireland. Why don't you contact us today to find out how you can become involved and play a part in building this new movement.

There are many burning problems and issues which effect working class people that are not being tackled in any serious way. This situation exists not because the necessary resources and wealth are not available but because these resources are owned by a tiny minority, who run society for profit, as opposed to peoples' needs.

The politics of Socialist change

Where we stand on the key issues

On Health
* For a properly funded public health care system to put an end to waiting lists.
* No to a two tier health service.
* End the profiteering in healthcare.
* For free and comprehensive health care, with clinics in all areas to provide primary medical services.

On Education
* Reduce the pupil/teacher ratio, for a maximum class size of twenty.
* For a free education system, all materials, books, uniforms, school trips to be provided free to all students.
* For democratic control of schools, through elected school boards involving students, teachers and parents.
* Full and free access, with equal opportunity to all levels of education.
* For a living grant for all third level students.

On Women's Rights
* Change the law and court procedures to protect the victims of violence.
* For the provision of refuges, financial support and counselling services by the state to help those suffering from domestic violence.
* For an end to all forms of chauvinism and sexual stereotyping in the media, advertising and in schools.
* No discrimination in pay or employment or promotional opportunities for women.

On Jobs
* Stop the handouts to big business and the multinationals.
* Develop state owned industry and services to provide secure well paid employment.
* A guaranteed right to a job or training with decent wages and full workers' rights.

On Pay
* For a legal minimum wage of £5 an hour to end the scandal of low pay.
* No to another national wage programme which keeps wages down and profits up.
* For democratic trade unions to fight in the interests of their members on pay and conditions.

On Workers Rights
* Repeal the 1991 Industrial Relations Act.
* Opposition to all attacks on workers' rights and conditions.
* For a 32 hour week without loss of pay.
* For all workers, whether full-time, part-time or on contracts, to have full pension, sick pay and holiday rights.
* For a major campaign to *unionise all* workers and to make it illegal to sack workers for joining a trade union or engaging in union activity.

On Taxes
* Increase the tax eligibility level to £8,000 a year.
* No worker to pay PAYE above a 25% rate.
* No more tax amnesties for the rich, make them pay their full share.
* No to local charges - no double taxation in any form.

On Social Welfare
* No taxation of benefits.
* Restore pay related benefits in full.
* For a minimum social welfare payment of £100 a week for the unemployed, pensioners and those on sickness and disability benefits.

The Socialist Party stands for a truly secular, democratic and socialist society.
The most undemocratic feature of our society, and the main barrier to achieving equal rights, justice and a dignified standard of living for all is the dictatorship of the bosses' capitalist market.
The Socialist Party stands for taking economic power out of the hands of the bankers, speculators and wealthy industrialists and transferring it to those who do the work and create the wealth, working class people.
We stand for public ownership and democratic socialist planning of the key areas of economic activity.

Did you know - that 5% of the Irish population own 72% of the wealth.
Did you know - the top 50 families in Ireland have a combined personal wealth of £2,500 million.
Did you know - that £4,000 million in profits created by workers here were sent out of this country last year.
Did you know - despite two tax amnesties for the rich there is still £2,000 million outstanding in unpaid taxes.
£780 million of this is tax deducted from workers' wages but their employers have pocketed it rather than forwarding it to the revenue commissioners

On the heroin and crime crisis

The Socialist Party is opposed to all criminal and anti social behaviour, and supports democratic community action to tackle these problems.
* Cut across drug related crime and the power base of organised crime by providing treatment, maintenance and counselling facilities for all addicts including support services for their families.
* Treatment centres to be established with the agreement of the local community, treating addicts from the local area only, and with a proper monitoring system for the local community.
* For community control of the Gardaí to ensure that they work with and implement the policies and policing priorities advocated by the communities.

The Socialist Party is determined to make a real impact in the political life of the country over the course of the next few years. It will be a campaigning socialist political party taking up all the issues that affect ordinary working class people.
Labour and Democratic Left claim to be the parties of the "left". They claim to be the parties that represent ordinary working class people. These claims are completely false.
Our aim is to give all those who are in struggle on the issues affecting working class people, or who are just simply sickened by the lack of concern and lack of action by the politicians, a party they can believe in.
The Socialist Party will be an active, campaigning organisation. While it will challenge the other parties in elections this will be just a part of its work. Unlike the other political parties who have abandoned working class communities only to appear on door steps during elections, Socialist Party members will continue to work with local communities, helping people to get organised on the issues.
Our members in the unions will continue to fight for democratic, fighting unions which really represent the interests of their members.
The Socialist Party will not be for sale to big business. We regard our independence from the parties supported by big business as a matter of principle. We will have no millionaire backers like Ben Dunne.
Our aim is to end the rule of the millionaires and their system based on greed, and to replace their rule with a democratic socialist society.

Northern Ireland

The Socialist Party calls for an immediate restoration of *the IRA ceasefire.*
All parties should be represented at the talks, but the only real solution will be found on the ground, uniting communities and bringing working class people together.
What is needed is an alternative to the talks, to bring community organisations, women's groups, trade unions, youth organisations and those parties who wish to bring the communities together to hammer out a way forward.
The real task ahead is to build an alternative to the failed sectarian politicians from both sides. There can be no lasting political settlement without the support of both communities.
The Socialist Party advocates a Socialist Ireland and a socialist federation of Britain and Ireland on a free and equal basis. That means working for an agreed settlement on the national question, but unlike the major right wing parties, it also means concentrating on issues such as unemployment, poverty and social deprivation.
To fight for this programme means building a mass socialist party to unite Protestant and Catholic working class people to fight for a socialist solution.